

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**RS21018**

This bill would amend Idaho Code § 32-717D to permit a parenting coordinator to charge a retainer. Parenting coordinators have provided a vital service to the courts in high conflict family law cases for nearly a decade. Over time, however, it has become difficult to recruit and maintain a list of qualified parenting coordinators on the roster. Parenting coordinators have reported that their inability to charge a retainer often leads to substantial underpayment or even non-payment for services rendered. No other Idaho law restricts a licensed professional's ability to charge a retainer. Adequate safeguards are built into the current statute and rule making restrictions on payment unnecessary. There are minimum professional qualifications, training and a fingerprint check before an individual may be placed on the roster. A comprehensive court rule prescribes duties and responsibilities following appointment. Allowing parenting coordinators to charge a retainer will aid in efforts to recruit and maintain a roster of qualified individuals to perform this critical service to families.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill would have no impact on the general fund.

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